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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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Since we the public are allowed to put in our "2 cents worth" so to speak I thought I would interject my thoughts on the matter.

I think the bundling of internet explorer with the microsoft operating system is quite within their right as a software developer. much as in the same way some of the complaining parties (IE: AOL/Time Warner) bundle the very same explorer into their software. funny that AOL who OWNS Netscape but continues to still bundle Internet Explorer with their software. There was a point when they included both Netscape and Internet Explorer versions but due to PUBLIC opinion they havn't bundled it for some time. Continually I have read about how IE (Internet explorer) has been bundled "unfairly" and how you couldn't install any competitive browser on a windows machine? As a computer technician I would have to ask has anyone looking at this case actually used a computer before????? as a computer user from almost the first computer available I have used internet software since there was an internet. First came Mosaic, which was developed and was supposed to be free. though there were many "flavors" of it out there and most charged for the better versions. all of which really sucked.... then came Netscape. They were the first company to give away their browser, which is interesting since they are one of the prime companies complaining about Microsoft giving away their browser! At first Microsoft sold their browser and it wasn't very good at all in the beginning. But as they began to develop their code it became quite good and then they started giving it away. A practice that is continued to today. I read about the decline of Netscape's market share and how it was leveraged away by Microsoft. Well I suppose that's probably what they would love people to think, however the reality is that their super buggy software became the focal point of discussion all over the net. New releases yielded a new level of horrors each time. constant crashing and problems almost from the start. Then started the Number war between the two companies having similar number schemes so as to confuse the average computer user I suppose. Well it never worked. the reason people started to use Internet Explorer over Netscape (myself included) was that after paying for their software in the "retail" version, which was essentially the same version packaged with more bookmarks.....what a ripoff. Was that IE jumped on the standards bandwaggon and pushed the envelope of standards for the web. Like the puzzling fact that JavaScript while being developed by Netscape currently does not even RUN on a Netscape browser properly, or at all in most cases. Or more puzzling that even their own Homepage cannot be properly displayed using their own software? It would be funny if it wasn't sad. So rather than coding a better software package that would compete with Microsoft on an even keel or blow their doors off. They have resorted to petty lawsuits that seem to have interesting timing relating to decreases in their stock value. An interesting correlation. I also find several holes in the validity of the internet supremacy as well since AOL is the largest ISP in the US as has been since way before this lawsuit. Part of the government agreement in the whole AOL/TimeWarner merger was to open up their instant messaging service. Funny that this still hasn't happened and nothing has happened to them.... But i'm sure if Microsoft was in their shoes it would be a big deal! And gee, why can't microsoft automatically download and install updates to their software but AOL can and has for years? Netscape has the whining power of AOL behind them and has coded one of the crappiest browsers in years, their current version 6.21. which is coded in java. Ahhh Java, one of the suckiest technologies to come down the programming pike in years. And why exactly should microsoft be forced to include a Java compiler into their Operating system anyway. Under their agreement settlement with SUN they have removed the capability from their software to rely on SUN for the components. and if you have ever ran a java program then you would have seen the advantage of using the microsoft optimized JRE engine compared

to the crummy SUN version that takes a million years to run. It's quite easy to think of the "beauty" of having computer code that runs the same on every platform. Looks great on paper but in actual use it doesn't work that way. You end up with non optimized code that runs crappy on every platform universally. Of course it runs great on SUN systems, conveniently. And if you truly think that "making" Microsoft unbundle Internet Explorer is going to be the solution for your smoking gun you are sadly mistaken. Gee, then the average consumer will just have to spend even MORE money to purchase the operating system and have all the goodies. It seems to me the last fiasco the government made regarding Microsoft was forcing them to unbundle the "Plus Pack" from windows. So that we the users of it could pay more yet again! And then of course there was checking into the pricing of Windows.....and how Microsoft was charging consumers too much for their product when it was in fact the same price as Apple was selling their operating system for as well. DOI. But then there is never much thought as to what the average user has to deal with it, it's always pressured by money and big business. It certainly doesn't mean that Microsoft codes the best software in the world because they don't, far from it. But it's also not like there are others jumping at the chance to create a new operating system for the Intel platform. Linux is out there but frankly isn't catching on very well at all. and certainly the government has a TON of responsibility as well, since it is the largest purchaser of computer software in the world. As the largest purchaser you certainly could have chosen a different platform had you wanted too, be it Macintosh OS or Unix but chose not too. well my rambling is over now. just wanted to share my thoughts.

Bill